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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,553	08/08/2001	Michael G. Dykhoff	56950US002	5531

7590

08/14/2002

Attention: David B. Patchett
Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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EXAMINER

RHEE, JANE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1772

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,553

Applicant(s)

DYKHOFF, MICHAEL G.

Examiner

Jane J Rhee

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group I, claims 1-10, a) hydrated alkali metal silicate Group II, claims 11-12, b) substantially free of graphite and Group III, claim 13, c) sealed enclosure.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record

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showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Patchett on August 6, 2002 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-10. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 11-13 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 1 recites the limitation "said interior material" in lines 7-8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable by Wilson (5502937).

Wilson discloses a composite fire stop article comprising an interior insulating material (figure 6 number 28) and an intumescent material (figure 6 number 29) arranged around at least a portion of the interior material (figure 6 number 29 and 28), the intumescent material consisting essentially of filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component (col. 6 lines 45-50). Wilson discloses that the intumescent material further includes organic char-forming components (col. 6 line 49). Wilson discloses that the interior insulating material comprises inorganic fibrous material (col. 8 line 24). Wilson discloses that the inorganic fibrous material comprises at least one of fiberglass, mineral wool, refractory ceramic materials, and mixtures thereof (col. 3 lines 31-35). Wilson discloses that the interior insulating material has opposed first and second opposed major surfaces, and further wherein the sheets of intumescent material are arranged adjacent each of the first and second surfaces (figure 6 number 29 and 28). Wilson discloses that the intumescent sheets is adhesively bonded with the insulating material first and second major surfaces (col. 4 lines 1-3). Wilson discloses that the intumescent sheets bond to the insulating material upon exposure to a temperature of 1200°F (col. 5 line 25-26).

As to the fire stop article being used to fire stop an opening in a partition, it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art

apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ 2d 1647 (1987).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Eiermann (4584214).

Wilson discloses that the inorganic fibrous material comprises 50% mineral wool (col. 7 lines 15-16). Wilson fails to disclose that the mineral wool has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot. Eiermann discloses that the mineral wool has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot (col. 4 lines 55-57) for the purpose of preventing heat penetration for a sufficiently long time (col. 4 lines 66-68).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Wilson with mineral wool that has a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot in order to prevent heat penetration for a sufficiently long time (col. 4 lines 66-68) as taught by Eiermann.

4. Claims 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Sakno (5634304).

Wilson discloses the fire stop article described above. Wilson fails to disclose that the fire stop article further comprises a polyethylene enclosure arranged around the intumescent material. Sakno teaches a polyethylene enclosure arranged around the intumescent material for the purpose of containing the expansion of the intumescent material and focus its expansion on collapsing the conduit without reliance upon containment by surrounding concrete (col. 3 lines 1-4).


Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided Wilson with a polyethylene enclosure arranged around the intumescent material in order to contain the expansion of the intumescent material and focus its expansion on collapsing the conduit without reliance upon containment by surrounding concrete (col. 3 lines 1-4) as taught by Sakno.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane J Rhee whose telephone number is 703-605-4959. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 703-308-4251. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-5408 for regular communications and 703-301-9999 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


8-9-02


HAROLD PYON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
1772

8/9/02